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Harry J. Kelly to be installed in Montana Newspaper Hall of Fame

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DO NOT RELEASE UNTIL NOON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

The late Harry J. Kelly, longtime Montana newspaperman who has been called the "Father of Hungry Horse Dam," was installed in the Montana Newspaper Hall of Fame in ceremonies at the MSU School of Journalism Saturday morning.

He became the fifth Montana journalist to enter the Hall of Fame which was established by the Montana State Press Association and the School of Journalism last year.

Mel Ruder, editor and publisher of the Hungry Horse News at Columbia Falls and a past president of the State Press Association, officiated at the ceremonies. Prof. Olaf J. Bue of the School of Journalism and a onetime employee of Mr. Kelly on the Flathead Monitor, delivered the installation address.

Representing Mr. Kelly were a daughter and a son, Margaret A. Kelly of Kalispell and Hal Kelly of Seattle, Wash.

Mr. Kelly came to Montana in 1888 and was connected with several Montana newspapers before he became editor and publisher of the Flathead Monitor. In the late '20s he began urging construction of a multi-purpose dam on the South Fork of the Flathead River, and he devoted more than two decades to a campaign to achieve the project. He rode as grand marshal to the site of Hungry Horse Dam near Columbia Falls for the groundbreaking ceremony in 1948. During his editorial campaign he was given the nickname by which he was widely known, "Hungry Horse Harry."

He served as president of the State Press Association in 1937-38 and retired in 1944 after 56 years as a Montana newspaperman. He died in 1950 at the age of 60.

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